

Transrectal Ultrasound of the Prostate With a Needle Biopsy of the Prostate

You have been scheduled for an ultrasound of your prostate on _____ at _____. Your appointment letter will tell you if you should report to the X-ray Department on the first floor *or* to Outpatient Surgery on the second floor.

An ultrasound scan uses high frequency sound waves to produce a picture of your prostate. This picture will help your doctor:

- Estimate the size of your prostate
- Find the problem area

A biopsy is often done at the same time. In a biopsy, a fine needle is used to remove pieces of tissue from your prostate. The tissue is sent to the lab where it is tested for cancer.

Getting Ready

Tell your doctor if you take warfarin (Coumadin), clopidogrel (Plavix), aspirin, ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil, Nuprin), or other anti-inflammatory drugs. S/he may want you to stop taking them for a few days if you are going to have a biopsy. This is so you do not bleed too much during the biopsy. You should stop taking _____ for _____ days before your biopsy.

You may eat before your prostate ultrasound.

About half an hour before the ultrasound you may be given a Fleets enema to clean your lower bowel.

If you are having a biopsy during the scan, you will be given an antibiotic. The biopsy is done through the wall of the rectum. This is an area where there are many bacteria. The antibiotic will help prevent infection.

Tell the doctor if you have ever had joint (knee, shoulder, hip, elbow) replacement surgery, heart valve surgery, or rheumatic fever. You may need extra antibiotics to prevent infection.

The Test

A transducer covered with a lubricated condom is placed in your rectum. The transducer is a small instrument, which gives off high-frequency sound. As the transducer is turned, a microphone picks up sound waves. A computer processes this information and an image of your prostate is shown on a television screen. This is not painful.

(over)

If you have a biopsy, you may feel a light “pinch” when it is done.

The whole procedure takes about 45 to 60 minutes. You will get the results during your Urology Clinic follow-up visit two to three weeks later.

After the Test

If you have blood in your urine, drink eight to ten glasses of water a day. Do this until your urine is clear.

It is not unusual to see blood in urine or bowel movements for several days after a biopsy. If bleeding increases, if you find it hard or painful to urinate, or if you have chills or a temperature above 101 degrees, call the Urology Clinic at (612) 467-3473, Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. At any other time, call the Urgent Care Area at (612) 467-2771. You may see some blood in your semen for several weeks. This causes no problems and will go away.

When you can no longer see blood in your urine or bowel movements, you may start taking any blood-thinning drugs such as Warfarin (Coumadin), aspirin, ibuprofen that you were told to stop taking before the test.

Author: Linda Dreblow, RN

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VA Medical Center
Minneapolis, Minnesota